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WEDNESDAY, JULY 19, 1905.

If you go to the mountains, seashore or country, have The Times-Dispatch follow you.
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A Whiff at Optimicism.

In spite of the "startling disclosures in political and financial circles within the past several months, The Times-Dis patch has taken the optimistic view, and has warned its renders not to lose their faith in public and private officials. We are pleased that Mr. William Allen White takes the same optimistic view in an artiale contributed to the current esue of The Outlook, Mr. White declares that while there are dirty spots, American politics is, on the whole, fairly clean; that the most corrupt city councils and State legislatures pass more good laws than bad laws, and that in the average legislature the number of iniquitous meas ures passed is infinitesimal as compared with the gross amount of good work done, and that if it is hard for a poo man to get justice in the courts, the fact is not due to corruption there, but rather to the red tape and the high price for good lawyers. He refers to the postal scandals, but says that of all the thousands of men at work in the department less than one hundred were stealing that every guilty man is now in the peni tentlary or is going there as fast as a dilatory, but inexorable, law can send

He agrees with The Times-Dispatch that the moral perception of the people has grown, and with it their standard of righteousness. He says that public sentiment has practically barred the drunk ard from polities; that the bribe-take hides his ill-gotten gains, whereas twenty five years ago he splurged and was no ashamed. That the "parquisite of office is disappearing;" that honest men are scornful of congressmen who take unearned mileage, unused stationery and unnecessary clerk hire; that the legislative tunket has been reformed considerably, while the "big drunk draught of the senatorial funeral has been practically abandoned.

He notes distinct manifestation of this growth of moral perception of the people in State government, and cites notable examples to show that the Governor is no longer regarded as a figurebut that the people have made him a part of their government, and that he is making it his business to see that the laws of the State are enforced, and that the interests of the State and of people are conserved.

Moreover, he makes bold to say that the people are no longer afraid of the use of money grossly in politics, because events of the past five years have taught them that wealth is not success, and that money does not prove that its possessor is either a good or a great man. He as serts that money is losing its political power, and that as the power of money in politics goes down, respect for the law comes up. "There have been times in the history of the world," he con tinues. "when the law was more of a terror than it is to-day to the poor and igno rant: but in this country there has never been a time before this when the law has reached into high places with such stern hand as it is reaching to-day. Not merely have United States senators been indicted for common crime, but the men who make United States senators, th trust magnates and their serving men. violations of law. Business methods and motives are probably no more greedy and dishonorable now than they have been since the organization of commerce, but the people are acquiring the moral sense and moral courage to restrain the greed without respect to the worldly station of the business offenders; and all this, too, without anger, without vicious envy, without malicious class feeling, but with a fine spirit of American fair play and love of equity that proves the stability

of the movement." That is a fine phrase, and we believe it to be literally true. Never has civic righteousness been preached so carnestly the people so enraestly taken the sermons to heart. The standard of public and private morals has been raised. There is more of civic righteousness among me people to-day than in any generation that that preceded, and, as Mr. White says in conclusion, as the people grow honest their government will grow honest.

Let us not be discouraged by thes revelations. Let us rather rejoice and take hope in the fact that the grafters have been exposed, and not only exposed but honestly condemned by public sentiment, and that every guilty man of them will receive the punishment which the law provides. We are having a house cleaning, and while the work is disgust ing and nauscating, when the fleors shall have been swept and garnished, the atmosphere will be sweet and pure. Let us have faith.

As to Insanity and Genius.

The limelight of the press has touched modestly a disappointed lady of New York, who, having married a man unde the impression that he was a genius sane. The lady proved fully equal to the emergency. She clapped the deceptive bridegroom into an asylum, and promptly applied for a divorce.

An interesting question arises in this connection as to whether both the woman's estimates of her husband may not have been correct. The gentleman may conceivably have been now a genius, now insane. The line of demarcation between the two is often so slight as to be invis lble to the naked eye. "Genius is abnormal," a woman novelist makes one o her characters say; "therefore I hold tha it must be abnormal at some period of its career."

The celebrated dictum that genius is no more than the infinite capacity for taking pains is scarcely consistent with moder scientific study of the brain. In the course of his able and interesting work 'The Diseases of Society," Dr. G. F. Lydston remarks that "in the genius the brain-cell groups from which cortain facilities emanate are refined and de veloped at the expense of other cellgroups." Here is the whole thing condensed into a nutshell by twentieth cen tury medicine; Here is genius shorn of all mystery and divinity, and degraded to a mere product of cerebral physiology.

Dr. Lydston also quotes in his argu ment the somewhat startling statement of Arthur MacDonald that "the principal and extreme forms of human abnor mality are insanity, genius and crime. Only a page or two later we read this Clouston holds that there are numerous examples of persons of insane tempera ment, whose qualities range from those of the inspired idiot to those of the in spired genius. He claims that Goldsmith, Shelley, Lamb, Cowper, De Quincey, Turner and Tasso were of Insane temperament."

Genius as here understood is of course not to be confounded with mere talent in however high a degree. In the scien tific acceptation, genius is attributable to physical peculiarities in the formation or malformation of the brain; and it is not infrequently correlated, as Dr. Lydston's illustrations show, with one or another aspect of physical degeneracy. Of this point of view the rudely awakened lady in New York can be expected to know nothing. She only ap-

prehends that her husband, the quandam genius, is now too obviously a madman. From the intimacy of relationship that exists between the "inspired idiot" and the "inspired genius" she is probably able to draw no jot nor title of consolation.

The Primary.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch: answer in your query

Sir.—Please answer in your query column the following questions:

(i) Does the names of Governor Montague and Senator Martin appear on the ticket in the primary to be held August

(2) Do their names appear on the ticket the general election in November?

(3) Has the Legislature the legal right ovote against the nominee of that pri-

mary? READER. To question one the answer is, yes.

To question two the answer is, no.

To question three the answer is, yes. The senatorial primary is confusing. The

Constitution of the United States provides that the Senate of the United States shall be composed of two senators from each State, chosen by the Legislature thereof for six years.

Therefore we cannot elect a senator by popular vote, but Democratic voters may by primary election, or otherwise, nominate a candidate to be voted for by the Democratic members of the Legislature. Candidates for that nomination will be voted for in the State Democratic pri mary to be held on August 22d, and the names of such candidates, will, of course, appear on the primary election ticket, as also the names of candidates for Gover-

nor and other State officers, After the candidates have been nominated in the primary the names of the nominees for Governor and other State officers will appear on the ticket in the general State election to be held in November, but not the name of the nomince for senator, as the senator is to be elected by the Legislature and not by the people.

As a matter of party rule and party honor, the Democratic nominee for senwill be voted for by Democratic members of the Legislature, but no member of the Legislature, Democratic or Republican, will be legally bound to de so

The Value of Preparation.

Rev. Dr. Hamlin, Secretary Hay's pas tor, tells in the Sunday School Time: some entertaining anecdotes concerning his distinguished parishioner. Amonother things, he relates that when Mr. Hay was asked last winter to "say a few words" on an occasion of importance he replied: "I cannot do it. I could not do it in the sense that you mean. Should I comply with your request, I must painfully prepare myself at the cost of a week's steady work."

In making that statement Secretary Hay let out the secret of his success It is conscientious work, after all, that and so universally, and never before have brings results. The man who makes it

and painstaking attention to every work that he undertakes is the man who does the best service, and who is sure, by and by, to make a reputation.

But we do not mean to preach a sormon We refer to the incident more especially by way of giving a hint to public speakers, especially to the young men who are just entering the field. The man who thoroughly prepares himself for an ocension; who makes his speech with care; who knows it through and through; who egins at the beginning and speaks definitely and with confidence, and who concludes when he is done, may reasonably count upon having the attention of his audience, if not their approval and praise. it is the caroless, slipshod, uncertain, scattering, oft-repeating speaker who tires his audience and brings forth the inevitable sigh of relief at the end. A speaker may think that he can deceive his audience in this respect, but he is wrong; the average hearer knows perfeetly well, long before the speaker is hrough, whether he has prepared himself, or has simply "trusted to the in-

Thorough preparation in all things is half the victory.

A Politician's Retrospect. Senator Thomas C. Platt, of New York, is just seventy-two years of age, and in excellent health, but says that he wants but five years more of life.

"I don't think it has been worth while," said he, in an interview, "If I had it to do over again, I should model my political life along other lines."

"Would you have the years come bac for another chance?" he was asked. "No," was the reply, "I would not, but I would do much differently."

"Why? How differently?" "I should rather not say," replied the senator, "It would lead to developments. I do not wish anything to develop from the statement that the years have not been worth the battle or that I would live out a different political policy from the one I have so long pursued."

"Yet you have been successful?" "Perhaps," was the answer, "I have some dear old friends."

That sounds much like the wall of Solomon, "All is vanity." Let the younger generation of politicians take heed. The day of retrospect is coming by and by-the day of reckoning-the day when a man shall scan his record and shall say, "I have pleasure in it." or "I have no pleasure in it," according to the quality of it. Every politician in Virginia is making his record. How will it be when it shall have been completed and how will the politician regard it?

Senator Platt has given a very solemi warning.

It seemed to us a fair conclusion that the qualifying clause in the letter of Mr. T. A. Brown, of Prince George, on Richpolitics, published in our Sunday issue, was intended to be ironical, but Mr. Brown gives assurance that it was not so intended, that he did not mear to refer to Mr. Meredith and associates as tricky politickans, and we gladly accept his disclaimer.

We hope that the complication of woman in the Agricultural Departmen little difficulty, will not give rise to the phrase "female graft." We shall ject to that expression on strictly grammatical grounds.

First Capitalist-"Good morning! Have you been investigated?"

Second Ditto-"Why, good morning Yes, twice; but I wasn't guilty. By the way, is my taint on straight?

The linetype made us say in yester day's paper that Peary was "nearly forty years of age." It should have been "fifty." Indeed the Century Dictionary says he was born in 1854.

The suicide of Emil Parton serves to remind the public that there was an old Panama canal scandal, too.

Let us hope the sun will now, grow few spots big, and black enough to shake things off a few.

It appears now that Senator Depew was himself greatly in need of "advisory

The Governor-General of Poland has issued orders to run all Poles into the ground.

It certainly is. But it's grossly unfair to blame it all on the weather man, Just whose press agent "Scotty" is, has not yet come fully to light.

"In all time of our prosperity, good Lard deliver us,"

Better pay your taxes; you may run for office some day.

Wouldn't you like to have Peary's

WOOD'S **Seed Potatoes**

IN COLD STORAGE For Late Planting.

Planted in June and July, these yield large crops of fine potatoes ready for digging just before cold weather comes on, carrying through the winter in first-class condition for either home use or market. By our methods of carrying these Late Seed Potatoes in cold storage, we are enabled to supply them unsprouted and in first-class, sound condition, just when they are required for late planting.

Book your orders early so as to get se kinds you want, but don't order s kinds you went, but don't orde pment until you are ready to plant the potations commence to sprout ver-on wher being taken out of cold stor-e, Prices quoted on request. We are hearquarters for Cow Pous Sole Beans, Millet Seed, Sorghums etc. Seasonable Price-list telliquall about Seeds for Summer planting, mailed on request.

T.W. Wood & Sons, Seedsmen, RICHMOND, - VIRGINIA.

QUERIES AND

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:
Sir,-Please inform us through the columns of your paper whether young
pines, two to six feet high, can be exterminated by chopping them down with
axee, and, if so, at what season of the
year? Young pines can be killed by chopping them off at the ground new. The stumps will soon decay, and the land should be cultivated and put in grass to prevent more bushes from growing again.

Chemical Directors.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:
Sir.—Please publish the directors of the
Virginis-Carolina Chemical Company.
B. B. Addison, Richmond, Va.; James N.
Boyd, Richmond, Va.; John B. Dennis,
New York city; James B. Duke, Somerville, N. J.; Norman S. Meldrum, New Yory city; Samuel T. Morgan, Richmond, Va.; Samuel T. Morgan, Men-mond, Va.; R. J. Reynolds, Winston-Salem, N. C.; Samuel Spencer, New York city; E. T. Stoicsbury, Philadelphia, Pa.; Henry Walters, New York city; George W. Watts, Dürham, N. C.; T. C. Wil-liams, Jr., Richmond.

' Good-Bye."

Editor of The Times-Dispatch;
Sir.—Will you kindly publish in your
Sunday Times-Dispatch the old song beginning, "Farewell, Inrewell; its a lonely
sound";
A SUBSCRIBER.

Farewell! farewell! is a lonely sound, And always brings a sigh; But give to ma when loved ones part That sweet old song—"Good-byc."

Farewell! farewell may do for the gay, When pleasure's throng is nigh; But give to me that better word, That comes from the heart-Good-bye.

Adjeu! adjeu! we hear it oft With a tear, perhaps with a sigh; But the heart feels most when the lips nove not, cyus spenk the gentle "Good-And

Farewell| farewell| is nover heard When the tour's in the mother's cye; Adicul adleul she speaks it not; But, "My love, good-bye, good-bye!"

The School-Book Question. Bellior of The Times-Dispatch:
Sir.—It seems to me your answer to
questions of G. W. C. in your issue of
the 12th in reference to the multiple
school book list are not very explicit.
Will you not kindly answer the followine in your Sunday issue?

ing in your Sunday issue?

1. Do not the records show that Governor A. J. Montague, who now seeks the Demogratic nomination for United States senator, was the only member of the State State State Board who worked and voted for the single book list, which was defeated, but which, if it had been adorted would be the state of the single book list, which was defeated, but which, if it had been adorted would be the state of the single book list, which was defeated. adopted, would have saved to our citizens all over the State of Virginia thousands of dollars, besides any amount of annoy of dollars, besides any amount of annoy-ance to mothers, fathers and teachers, as well as the children themselves and

ook dealers all over the State. 2. Is it not an admitted fact that Gover 2. Is it not an admitted fact that Governor Montague had nothing whatever to do with the appointment of Messrs, McCill-vray and Thomas, and is it not also a fact that when Governor Montague's attention was called to these matters, that he promptly insisted upon a full and thorough investigation?

S. W. C. 1. The question of single and multiple lists was considered at great length by the State Board of Education, and many plans were considered. We understand however, that in the end Governor Mon tague did offer a resolution to adopt the single list, and that it received only his own vote.

2. Governor Montague did not appoin either Mr. McGilvray or Mr. Thomas.

The Governor and the Lee Statue.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir,-It is stated Governor Montague vetoed the bill of the Virginia Legislature to place the statute of Lee in the "Hal of Fame. in Washington. If this is true what were his reasons?

M. S. FLOYED.

Governor Montague did not veto the resolution of the Legislature relative to the placing of the statue of General Lee In the Hall of Fame, He did not sign the bill, however, because it was repre sented to him that the family of Genera Lee were opposed to pushing the matter at this time. The Governor was also in receipt of a great many letters from prominent ex-Confederate soldiers throughout the State, among then being the late General William H. Payne who urged him not to sign the bill, upo the ground that it would be in bad tasts to place the statue in the hall when there was objection to it.

No one reveres the name of Lee more than the Governor, and he felt confident that in a few years there would be a sentiment in the North in favor of placing the statue in the hall, wheras at the time of the passage of the resolution in question there was opposition to it,

Hen Cholera.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch;
Sir.-Is there any remedy or protection against hen choiera? This disease not only causes a very great loss in the death of the fowls, but may make unvolceme for food great numbers of chickens and eggs, for no one can know when the germs of the disease are present. The prevalence and deadly nature of this disease demands that it should be stamped out, if possible FRANCIS JERDONE.

The results of observation and experi-

FRANCIS JERLIONEL.

The results of observation and experiments of cholera leads to the conclusion that the disease is introduced into the body through food, and probably also water, infected with the bacteria, causant disease the disease of their dead ing the disease. Fowls eat their dead at every opportunity, which practice must be strictly guarded against during an outbreak. Contamination from the infectious droppings is prevented by disinfecting, the roosting houses daily and infecting, the roosting houses daily by feeding from troughs designed to vent fowls from walking in the feed. The same end is favored by moving infected colonies to fresh ground.

Possible infection through the drinking

water is prevented by placing a weak solution of corrosive sublimate in the drinking water fountains. The prompt slaughter and thorough disposal of all sick hens during an outbreak contribute toward preventing the spread of the disease. The evidence goes to show that fowl cholera is a comparatively easy disease to control, but disinfection must be continued after the death-rate becomes insignificant. The dissemination of the disease in

some cases is undoubtedly due to care-less disposal of the dead. The movement of sick fowls is of importnace in the Licensed to Wed. Marriage licenses have been lasted to Abe Stein and Mollie Linker, Frank Brannan and Lillian C. Kennedy.

THE **ANSWERS** MOST POPULAR Killing Young Pines.



IRHYMES FOR TODAY

Foiled Again; or His Wife's Cigar. (Disgusted by his wife's cigar, a man left the smolding-car a few minutes be-fore a collision killed everybody on board 1t).

To many old fogies, The worst of all bogies, Is smoking the stogles, That come from our wives. We scold 'em and use 'em, And bite them and cuss 'em-While they save our lives.

Sought the smoking compartment, A man whose kind heart meant.
To smoke the allotment.
His wife bought to choke,
He smoked till, quite dizzy,
He left, and where is he? Safe! Saved by his Lizzy, Who bought that mean smoke

No more they'll provoke us! Ifall, strange hocus-pocus That Irriates smokers, In gitts from our wives! For now mute as mute e, We'll smoke to the beauty,

THIS DAY IN HISTORY July 19th.

1693-Battle of Neerwinde, between the English, under William III., and the French, in superior force, under Mar-

shal Luxemburg.

1804—England sent a convoy of ships to Spain to repudiate a rumor of rupture between the two nations.

1810—The King of Prussia issued a de-

cree forbidding American vessels to enter his ports. enter his ports.

1829—At a meeting of British merchants
in Liverpool, much regret was expressed at the resignation of Mr.
Maury as American consul.

1849—The accuration for the passage of

849-The excavation for the passage o the double track of the Utica and Schenectady Rallway through the rock at Little Falls, Herkimer county, New York, was completed. 30,000 yards of granite were taken out and 1,600 kegs of powder consumed in the opera-

1853-The Danish Parliament was pro

'rogued and a fundamental law issued by which the government became an absolute one.

4-The insurrection at Madrid tri-umphed and the Rivas ministry resigned.

1854-The Chinese insurgents attacked 1857-A fire broke out in Talefa, Portu-

1857—A fire broke out in Talota, Fortu-gal, which spread over an immense district of agricultural country, con-suming a vast quantity of standing grain, country houses, barns, etc. 1864—General Sherman's army left in-trenchments on the Chattahoochie and advanced upon Atlanta, and Johnston was said to be retiring.

was said to be retiring.

—All Spain was declared to be in a state of siege, and property of all Carlists was sequestrated and held subject to claim in favor of Repub-

1884-Society composed wholly of noblemen formed in Germany for purpose

1894—Headed by Chriman Wilson, of the Ways and Means Committee, the House refused to recede on the Wilson tariff bill, and instructed confercommittee to yield nothing t the Senate.

Richmonders in New York.

(Special to The Times-Dispatci...)
NEW YORK July 18.—Cadillac, 14.
Chandler: Marlborough, T. H. Teary;
Hersid Square, A. J. Rosenbloom; York,
H. Teary;
Hersid Square, A. J. Rosenbloom; York,
Charlton; Manhattan, T. S. Strauss,
H. W. Fleishman; Hoffman, O. B. Neal,
H. T. Mayer, J. N. Boyd, A. Cameron,
Jr., W. G. Neal, J. H. Lyons; Aslor, B.
C. Plunkett, W. M. Plunkett; Ashland,
R. A. Huntley and wife; Konsington,
Mrs. H. Miller.

Quick SUNBURN Relief

To relieve the sting of sunburn and windburn and to quickly heal the skin and restore the complexion, many of our customers prefer

Blanks' Velveteen Toilet Lotion to anything else in our stock. It is so cooling, so soothing and so healing to an irritated skin that it is used regularly wherever introduced.

BLANKS, The Prescription Druggist, Inc. Eight Storce-Seventeen Prescription Pinarmacists Employed. Broad Street Branch, 1tt Sast Broad

Clay Street Branch, corner Hancock and Play Streets.
Randolph Birset Branch, Randolph and Soverly Streets.
Pine Street Branch, Pine and Albemarle enty-eighth and Broad Streets, Shine's Store. prug Slore.
Twonty-eighth and N Street Branch,
wonty-eighth and N Street Pharmacy.
Twenty-eighth and Venable Street Branch,
22st Pharmacy.

WE SELL NOTHING AT FULL PRICE.

ROANOKE'S TIDE OF PROSPERITY

The People Will Not Allow It to Be Called a

STEEL AND STONE AND BRICK

Give Solidity and Remove all Doubt of Mushroom

(Special from a Staff Correspondent.) ROANOKE, VA., July 18.—The people of Ronnoke would be offended were I to say the town is on a boom. Several of them have denied the accusation with promptness and energy when I have made it. Older citizens recall the days of ten or fifteen years ago, when "booms' were of frequent occurence in Roanoke. A new reason for the continued, normal, healthy, growth of the town would be exaggerated by spectators, values would jump skyward over night, and for a few weeks or months the real estate market would be at a dizzy height. Then would come the slumps—"the cold, gray dawn of the morning after." And the last estate of that town would be similar to that of the certain young man of the liblical story who essayed to change his mode of livins.

So I will not say Roanoke is booming. I do say that it is prospering beyond what it has done in years. It would be hard to find a city of thirty thousand people in the South, or in the country, for that matter, which shows evidence of greater business activity, energy, enterprise and progress. Ten years ago, exaggerated by spectators, values would

terprise and progress. Ten years even five years ago, there was about city an evidence of newness which incity an evidence of newness which invariably suggests unsubstantiality, or, at least, doubts as to the future. To-day it is different. The town is beginning to look old. Steel and stone and brick have been used in the erection of many fine business buildings, which one never associates with the idea of a new town.

The buildings in progress is the first wideness of the rough of Response that

evidence of the growth of Rosnoke that impress itself on the visitor. There is scarcely a block in the business section scarcely a block in the business section of the city in which some large structure is not in course of erection. A leading firm of merchants has just awarded the contract for the erection of an enormous building, which it will occupy when completed. The contemplated cost of the building is not stated. The lot on which it will stand was purchased at a cost of \$40,000. That fact would indicate that the building is to be a costly one. It also evidences the fine prices at which Roanoke real estate is selling. Such a price would not be a bad one for a business lot in a much larger city. ness lot in a much larger

Many New Buildings.

City Engineer Wingate informs me that there were issued last year permits for ing \$257,000. Over \$500,000 worth of new buildings in a single year seems pretty good for a city of Roanole's size, but I was informed that the permits for buildings granted this year passed the total value for last year some time in April. It must not be overlooked that the Norfolk and Western Railway Company expended at Roanoke last year over \$600,000 in new buildings and improvements of various kinds, including a receiving yard \$,000 feet long at West Roanoke, costing \$20,000; improvement of yards at West Roanoke round-house, \$100,000; a new round-house, costing \$50.000, and various other work. The eye of the visitor is attracted at once by the handsome railway station, barely completed. ing \$257,000. Over \$800,000 worth of

handsome railway station, barely completed.

Roanoke is a Norfolk & Western town in every sense of the word. The railroad has been the chief faction in the development of this flourishing manufacturing city from the little village of Big Lick, which was just large enough to the incorporated in 1874. Old Lick was a stage station on the Lynchburg and Salem Turnpike in stage-coach days. In 1870 the town contained only a mill, a stage station, three churches, probably three stores, and fifteen dwellings. The old Virginia & Tennessee Railroad in 1882 established a station three quarters of a mile from Gainsborough, which was frequently known as Old Lick. The new station was called Big Lick, The Virginia and Tennessee became the Atlantic, Mississippi and Ohlo, and there were still no signs of city at Big Lick. The road then became the Norfolk and Western. The policy of the company to build up the country through which it basses was manifested at that early

wastern. The country through which it passes was manifested at that early date. Big Lick begun to thrive. But a town, handicapped by such a name, could never become a big city, no characteristics bestirred themselves in 1882, and pro-cured the passage of a bill by the Gen-eral Assembly, changing Big Lick to Ronnoke.

The Boom Days.

The Boom Days.

About five months later the Shenandoah Valley Raliroad, running from Hagerstown to Roanoke, was completed. Then the town began to boom. The citizens were proud to apply the term then. In two years it had the necessary 5,000 inhabitants, and a city charter was granted it January 31, 1884. The Norfolk and Western had established large machine works and repair shops there in 1882. This attracted hundreds of mechanics and their families. The great influence artisans attracted merchants. The demand for houses was very greatly in several instances and their failures. The demand for houses was very greatly in excess of the supply. In several instances people dwelt in tents, while their houses were building. They were afraid to delay coming, Golden opportunities were slipping by every day. The real estate speculator arrived at an early date. The most numerous class of buildings were the offices of these land speculators, most frequently little one-story affairs, each with a sign which covered the entire front. The enormous prices at which Rounoke realty was selling speedily became the talk of dealers all over the country. It was at about this time that Birmingham and Sheffield and Florence were beginning to grow, and the four towns did grow faster for a while than any in the United States.

Of course, there was a reaction. Those who were pessimistically inclined feared the effort to make Roanoke a city had failed for good. But while there had been a great inflation of values, and a rank mushroom growth, a great number of solid enterprises had been located in Roanoke Millions had been invested, and capital fought to protect itself. Consequently Roanoke continued to Thrive, though 'booms' were of frequent occurrence up to about the time the townbuilding fever swept over Virginia in the carly nineties. Roanoke did not boom then nearly so much as the public expected. The town had had enough of booming.

peoted. The town had had enough of booming.

The sum and substance of the story of the growth of Roanoke for the past fifteen years is that it has scarcely stood still for even a brief portion of that time. Times were pretty dull in 1833-94, but with that exception there has been in this whole decade and a half a constant

Roanoker's Pride.

cause a-plenty.

going forward. The result now is a city of which the people are proud, and want

Four thousand men are employed in the shops, furnaces and mills of Ros-noke. Four divisions of the Norfolk and Western Rallway terminate here. The general offices of the company are located in Roanoke, and the officials and clerks in Roanoke, and the officials and clerks therein receive a total of \$50,000 a month. The pay-roll at the Norfolk and Western machine works aggregating \$150,000 a month. The sum of \$200,000 a month is paid out here by the Norfolk and Western to officials and clerks, and does not begin to represent all the money paid Roanokers by the company, for hundreds of men engaged in the operating department line in Roanoke and receive and spend their wages in this city.

The Virginia Bridge and Iron Company, with a capitalization of \$550,000, inrely held by Roanoke people, the largest enterprise of the kind in the South, gives employment to 200 men, not including a staff of sixty officers, engineers,

staff of sixty officers, engineers, draughtsmen and clerks. The company

draughtsmen and clerks. The company employs nearly as large a force at its branch works at Burlington, N. C.

Another big enterprise in Roanoke is the Iron Company of America, a new concern, composed of Pennsylvania capitalists. The works are located near West. End furnace. It manufactures merchant

End furnace. It manufactures merchant-iron of the highest grade, said to excel-the Swedish iron, of world-wide fame.

There are three iron furnaces at Roan-oke, a large cotton mill, a flouring mill, with a capacity of 325 barrels a day, be-sides about 1,000 bushols of meal, a sides about 1,000 bushels of meal, a brewing company, a company for the manufacture of overalls, numerous planing mills and sash, doer and blind factories, a tobacco manufactory, a ferillizer factory, iron foundries, barrel and stave factory, a candy factory and a large number of smaller industries.

Retail Trade

Retail Trade.

Retail Trade.

The reaction of Roanoke, of every kind are excellent. The hardware establishments compare favorably with those of any city in the State.

The wholesale trade of Roanoke is developing with great rapidity. Roanoke joibers have the business of Southwest Virginia, and they are going after the of Eastern Kentucky and Tennessee and Western North Carolina.

There are twanty-two white churches, and ten colored churches in Roanoke. The city's public schools are the pride of

and ten colored churches in Roanoke. The city's public schools are the pride of every citizen. The Virginia College for young women, located a mile from the city, on a site commanding a magnificent view of panorama of mountain and vale, as well as the city itself, is a well established, but growing institution of Roanoke.

Roanoke. I should make mention of the street I should make mention of the street railway system of Roanoke, which is not surpassed in excellence by that of any city of equal size in the country. It operates twenty miles of track, much of it extending to nearby towns and yillages. By the way, I notice this unique sign on the beak of the sents in the remarkably the backs of the seats in the remarkably clean cars: "Passengers Will Please Not Put Their Feet on the Seats." The same appears in bold black type on a white card nailed in the forward end of the

tation they have. There is a superstition current that the man who spends a night under the roof of the Ponce de Leon, and s the recipient of courtesies at the hands of Bob a head waiter known to travel-ing men from all over the country, will return. The Hotel Roanoke is as widely known and is popular as a summer resort.

Financial Institutions. Roanoke has not a single large financial natitution, but the six small ones have a

institution, but the six small offer and wide reputation for thorough soundness, conservatism and stability.

There are several things else I should mention in connection with this snug little city, but that westbound train is little city, but that westbound train is nearly due. There are the three newspapers—The Times, The News and The World—all apparently on the wave of prosperity. Any extended allusion to the material prosperity of Roanoke would be unfair and incomplete without reference to the work the Chamber of Commerce has done and is doing in the way of upbuilding the city. It only came into exisbuilding the city. It only came tence last year, when the old Board of Trade and the Merchants' and Manufac-

tence last year, when the old Board of Trade and the Merchants' and Manufacturers' Association were merged into a new organization. The chamber has already accomplished a great deal for the city, and it is casting work for the future along broad lines. B. P. Huff is president; R. H. Angell and S. D. Ferguson, vice-presidents, and E. B. Jacobs, secretary. Mr. Jacobs, of course, is the chief executive officer, and he is one of the most accomplished I have met.

I should like to refer to the beauty of the country in which Roanoke sits. The mountains which encompass it on every hand are not the most rugged in Virginia, but none are more heautiful. The contiguous agricultural country is gently rolling, very fertile and decked in its robe of summer verdure, presents varying scenes of wonderful beauty. But I shall not start to dilate upon the natural beauties of this Roanoke county, I started out to tell how Roanoke had grown and developed and how she was now enjoying a strong tide of prosperity. If I have falled to impress these facts, the fault is mine.

WALTER EDWARD HARRIS.

WALTER EDWARD HARRIS.

Home Mission Conference. THORSE MISSION CONFERENCE.

The annual conference of the Home Mission Society of the West Richmond District will be held at Market Richmond District will be held at Market Tuesday, Rev. T. N. McSimpson, of Clay Street Methodist Church, will preach the annual sermon. Addresses will be made by Mrs. Mastin, Mrs. Young, Mrs. Maybee and others. The train leaves the city at 7 A. M.

Are All Pleased. The Executive Committee of the Capitol Building Commission yesterilay went over the work with Superintendent William Ghaon, and appeared pleased with its progress. The full commission will meet next Tuesday.

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